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OO RUEHFK RUEHKSQ RUEHMQ RUEHNAG RUEHNH  
DE RUEHKO #1216 1490749  
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O 290749Z MAY 09  
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3331  
INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 9545  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 3195  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 2436  
RUEHMQ/AMEMBASSY MAJURO IMMEDIATE 0093  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE 1285  
RUEHRK/AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE 0214  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 5566  
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE 0737  
RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE 1105  
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE 1192  
RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA IMMEDIATE 4282  
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA IMMEDIATE 1882  
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA IMMEDIATE 6617  
RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE IMMEDIATE 8083  
RUEHKSQ/AMCONSUL SAPPORO IMMEDIATE 4811  
RUCPDC/NOAA NMFS WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS TOKYO 001216

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STATE FOR D, OES/OA AND EAP/J  
STATE PASS CEQ  
NOAA/NMFS - CMCCARTY AND RWULFF

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [EFIS](#) [KSCA](#) [IWC](#) [ETRD](#) [JA](#)

SUBJECT: WHALING: JAPAN UNLIKELY TO COMPROMISE IN UPCOMING  
IWC MEETING

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¶1. (SBU) While the Japanese public does not oppose whaling - in fact most support continued whaling - interest groups here are divided over whether to accept a compromise in the International Whaling Commission (IWC) that would allow Japan limited coastal whaling in exchange for a reduction/elimination of Japan's research whaling. Japanese policymakers, however, seem to be coalescing around opposing any compromise on the issue that appears to stem from foreign pressure, according to a senior Ministry of Foreign Affairs official. This official also recently told EMIN politicians in all Japanese parties support continued whaling in some form and that there would be no progress on whaling this year.

¶2. (SBU) The MOFA senior official's comments are similar to responses from working level GOJ officials and Japanese media contacts Post has spoken with recently. All say Japan is unlikely to compromise and they do not expect progress at the IWC's annual meeting in Madeira in June. While there is an expectation the negotiations on finding a compromise will continue until the 2010 IWC annual meeting, many in the GOJ, according to a reporter for a Japanese fisheries trade daily, are wondering about future U.S. policies and who may replace Dr. Hogarth, and the impact these decision might have on the negotiations.

ZUMWALT